



Texas Department of Insurance

Division of Workers' Compensation

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution, MS-48

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MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Requestor Name and Address

PATIENTS MEDICAL CENTER
4600 EAST SAM HOUSTON PARKWAY SOUTH
PASADENA TEXAS 77505

Respondent Name

Zurich American Insurance Co

Carrier's Austin Representative Box

Box Number 19

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-09-6445-01

MFDR Date Received

February 26, 2009

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "According to Medicare for CPT code 72148 the APC allowable is \$343.46. Rule 134.0403 also states that HealthCare Providers shall be paid by the Medicare allowable x 200% for Outpatient claims."

Amount in Dispute: \$91.59

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: "The AWCA Operations Team reviewed the bill for claimant and confirms the bill was re-priced in accordance with the providers' contracted rate."

Response Submitted by: Aetna, 181 Farmington Avenue, RT52, Hartford, CT 06158

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Date(s) of Service	Disputed Services	Amount In Dispute	Amount Due
October 1, 2008	Outpatient Hospital Services	\$91.59	\$91.59

FINDINGS AND DECISION

This medical fee dispute is decided pursuant to Texas Labor Code §413.031 and all applicable, adopted rules of the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation.

Background

1. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307 sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
2. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.403, titled *Hospital Facility Fee Guideline – Outpatient*, sets out the reimbursement guidelines for facility services provided in an outpatient acute care hospital.
3. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.203, titled *Medical Fee Guideline for Professional Services*, sets out the reimbursement guidelines for professional medical services.
4. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.4 requires written notification to health care providers regarding contractual agreements for informal and voluntary networks.
5. 28 Texas Administrative Code §102.4 sets out general rules regarding communications.
6. The services in dispute were reduced/denied by the respondent with the following reason codes:

- 45 – CHARGES EXCEED YOUR CONTRACTED/LEGISLATED FEE ARRANGEMENT, ANY NETWORK REDUCTION IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOCUS/AETNA WORKERS COMP ACCESS LLC CONTRACT
- W4 – NO ADDL REIMBURSEMENT ALLOWED AFTER REVIEW OF APPEAL/RECONSIDERATION.

Issues

1. Are the disputed services subject to a contractual agreement between the parties to this dispute?
2. What is the applicable rule for determining reimbursement for the disputed services?
3. What is the recommended payment amount for the services in dispute?
4. Is the requestor entitled to reimbursement?

Findings

1. The insurance carrier reduced or denied disputed services with reason code 45 – CHARGES EXCEED YOUR CONTRACTED/LEGISLATED FEE ARRANGEMENT, ANY NETWORK REDUCTION IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOCUS/AETNA WORKERS COMP ACCESS LLC CONTRACT.” Review of the submitted information found insufficient documentation to support that the disputed services were subject to a contractual fee arrangement between the parties to this dispute. Nevertheless, on October 23, 2010, the Division requested the respondent to provide a copy of the referenced contract as well as documentation to support notification to the healthcare provider, as required by 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.4, that the healthcare provider had been given access to the contracted fee arrangement. Review of the submitted information finds that the documentation does not support notification to the healthcare provider in the time and manner required.

- The notice does not include the start date and any end date during which the insurance carrier had been given access to the contracted fee arrangement as required by §133.4(d)(2)(B).
- No documentation was found to establish time of notification in accordance with §133.4(f).

The Division concludes that, pursuant to §133.4(g), the insurance carrier is not entitled to pay the health care provider at a contracted fee. Consequently, per §133.4(h), the disputed services will be reviewed for payment in accordance with applicable Division rules and fee guidelines.

2. This dispute relates to facility services performed in an outpatient hospital setting with reimbursement subject to the provisions of 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.403, which requires that the reimbursement calculation used for establishing the maximum allowable reimbursement (MAR) shall be the Medicare facility specific amount, including outlier payment amounts, determined by applying the most recently adopted and effective Medicare Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) reimbursement formula and factors as published annually in the Federal Register with the application of minimal modifications as set forth in the rule. Per §134.403(f)(1), the sum of the Medicare facility specific reimbursement amount and any applicable outlier payment amount shall be multiplied by 200 percent, unless a facility or surgical implant provider requests separate reimbursement of implantables. Review of the submitted documentation finds that separate reimbursement for implantables is not applicable.
3. Under the Medicare Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS), each billed service is assigned an Ambulatory Payment Classification (APC) based on the procedure code used, the supporting documentation and the other services that appear on the bill. A payment rate is established for each APC. Depending on the services provided, hospitals may be paid for more than one APC per encounter. Payment for ancillary and supportive items and services, including services that are billed without procedure codes, is packaged into payment for the primary service. A full list of APCs is published quarterly in the OPPS final rules which are publicly available through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) website. Reimbursement for the disputed services is calculated as follows:
 - Procedure code 72148 has a status indicator of S, which denotes a significant procedure, not subject to multiple-procedure discounting, paid under OPPS with separate APC payment. These services are classified under APC 0336, which, per OPPS Addendum A, has a payment rate of \$343.52. This amount multiplied by 60% yields an unadjusted labor-related amount of \$206.11. This amount multiplied by the annual wage index for this facility of 0.989 yields an adjusted labor-related amount of \$203.84. The non-labor related portion is 40% of the APC rate or \$137.41. The sum of the labor and non-labor related amounts is \$341.25. The cost of these services does not exceed the annual fixed-dollar threshold of \$1,575. The outlier payment amount is \$0. The total Medicare facility specific reimbursement amount for this line is \$341.25. This amount multiplied by 200% yields a MAR of \$682.50.

4. The total allowable reimbursement for the services in dispute is \$682.50. The amount previously paid by the insurance carrier is \$540.38. The requestor is seeking additional reimbursement in the amount of \$91.59. This amount is recommended.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, the Division finds that the requestor has established that additional reimbursement is due. As a result, the amount ordered is \$91.59.

ORDER

Based upon the documentation submitted by the parties and in accordance with the provisions of Texas Labor Code Sections 413.031 and 413.019 (if applicable), the Division has determined that the requestor is entitled to additional reimbursement for the services involved in this dispute. The Division hereby ORDERS the respondent to remit to the requestor the amount of \$91.59, plus applicable accrued interest per 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.130, due within 30 days of receipt of this order.

Authorized Signature

_____	_____	September 11, 2013
Signature	Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer	Date

YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL

Either party to this medical fee dispute may appeal this decision by requesting a contested case hearing. A completed **Request for a Medical Contested Case Hearing** (form **DWC045A**) must be received by the DWC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **twenty** days of your receipt of this decision. A request for hearing should be sent to: Chief Clerk of Proceedings, Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers Compensation, P.O. Box 17787, Austin, Texas, 78744. The party seeking review of the MDR decision shall deliver a copy of the request for a hearing to all other parties involved in the dispute at the same time the request is filed with the Division. **Please include a copy of the *Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision* together with any other required information specified in 28 Texas Administrative Code §148.3(c), including a **certificate of service demonstrating that the request has been sent to the other party.****

Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 512-804-4812.